

Third Sunday of Lent 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, since the dawn of man and woman, we have been fascinated with fire; and, in the first reading today, Moses is drawn the phenomena of the Burning Bush, that Burns, but is not consumed!

St. Gregory of Nyssa, one of the greatest of the Fathers of the Church taught: that heaven and hell are not about a location, but about relationship with God. God is everywhere, and He did not create a heaven for some, and a hell for others. I we love God, (he teaches), His fire will be a comforting warmth, that consoles them, enlightens them, and purifies them; but if we choose to not have a relationship with Him, His fire of Divine love will be a fire that burns them and consumes them, for they shall see what it is they have rejected.

Moses was the foster-son of the daughter of the king of Egypt, Raamses. He was accustom to a life of luxury; but, he committed an act of murder, killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite slave. He had to flee from Egypt, into the desert. The desert's solitude drew him into contemplation of his life, and he began to re-calibrate his life. It was at this point that God called him; because God saw that Moses was seeking; and so, God shows Himself to Moses in the burning bush, a fire that did not consume the creature, the bush! Moses's response is: "I must go over and see this remarkable sight..."; and his choice made all of the difference in his life!

Jesus is God's burning bush! Lent is a six week intensive course in the Life of the Spirit. When we see Jesus, we see God; when we know Jesus, we come into the Divine Presence. God in Jesus invites us into the desert experience of Lent, to be consumed in the Fire of the Divine Love, to be enlightened by it, warmed by it, comforted by it, consoled by it; but also, purified by it! Jesus wants to set us on fire!

In Venezuela, during a series of apparitions, some people were praying before the Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ. It turned to human flesh, human cardiac tissue, and began to pulsate with fire. It still does so today! It is the fire that we see in the image of the Sacred Heart. Jesus wants to set you on fire; but He waits

for your response, like God waited for Moses's response. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: "Because Christ Himself is present in the Sacrament of the Altar, He is to be honored with the worship of adoration." When we draw near to Him in the Blessed Sacrament in our Worship and Adoration, He bathes us in the Fire of His love! In Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, just as God in the Burning Bush, God desires to make us fire, within the Fire of the Divine Love, to burn with the same Love that burns for us- He is not a distant God, He is here. Do we want to draw near to Him. He is waiting for us! Bring to Him your whole life, come to Him in Adoration, and He will change your whole life! Like a loving parent to a child in distress, He says to us: "Be still, and know that I am God... Bring me whatever distresses you in your life, and I will change your life!